the country. Category-wise details are indicated below:—

	SC	ST	PH	DEF	OPEN
RO	74	45	33	22	244
LPG	80	30	38	20	262

There is no reservation for backward classes, educated unemployed category, Ex-Armed personnel and para military forces. These are included in the Open, Defence and PH category respectively.

(c) and (d) 1519 Retail Outlet dealerships and 623 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1988—93 and 1992—94 respectively. Selection of dealers/ distributors is currently underway through the Oil Selection Boards.

Permission to Airlines to import aviation turbine fuel

494. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and some private airlines have approached the Central Government for granting them permission to directly import aviation turbine fuel;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the grant of such permission is likely to have any adverse effect on foreign exchange position; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines and Private Airlines have requested Indian Oil Corporation for assistance in handling their ATF imports against special import licences, available under Government Scheme. Indian Oil Corporation will import ATF against the said licences, on behalf of the Airlines, on commercial terms.

Consortium for crude oil exploration in cauveri basin

495. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium of three crude oil exploration companies, led by Vaalco Energy Inc. of USA has recently signed a production sharing contract with Government of India for exploration block under the fourth round located at the Cauveri basin in the East Coast;

(b) if so, what are the names of those companies; and

(c) the terms and conditions under which such a contract has been signed with three crude oil exploration companies by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) A production sharing contract has been signed on

30.12.94 for Exploration of Oil and gas in the block CY-OS-90/1 in Cauvery offshore basin between Government of India, ONGC, HOEC, India, Vaalco Energy Inc. USA and Tata Petrodyne of India.

(c) The contract is of Production sharing type with contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas of upto 25 years. The contractor is exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India has the first right of refusal in respect of oil produced under the contract and companies would be paid for their share of oil at international price. ONGC has taken a 10% participating interest in the venture at the exploration stage and has the option to take a further 30% interest at the development stage. Provisions also exist for development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources.

Indo-Oman joint commission meet

496. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Omanese delegation which visited New Delhi recently in connection with the Indo-Oman Joint Commission meet expressed certain doubts and apprehensions about the feasibility and availability of the requisite gas reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The meeting of the Indo-Oman Joint Commission scheduled to be held in January 1995 had to be postponed.

Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline

497. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a change both in the landfall site of Oman and India for the Oman-India gas pipeline, if so, the locations thereof and the consequential changes in the project;

(b) whether pipes required have been tested and manufacturing commenced, if so, by whom and under what conditions; and

(c) by when is the construction work going to commence and the total cash involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The feasibility study for the Oman-India pipeline has been taken up by the Oman Oil Company. Details such as the landfall point, testing of pipes, commencement of construction etc. will be decided when the feasibility study is complete. The Oman Oil Company has indicated that the investment in the project will be around USD 5 billion.

Cess on petroleum products

498. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount has been collected by Government by levying cess on different petroleum products every year;

(b) if so, details thereof, product-wise, and the total collection made since levy, till the current financial year;

(c) whether such collections have been from all States and Union Territories;